



City Council
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California 95678

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Discussion Draft of the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act

Dear Chairman Huffman:

As Mayor, I am writing on behalf of the City of Roseville, CA (Roseville) to express our support for several provisions of your draft FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act and comments for your consideration. Roseville is the largest city within Placer County with a current population of over 140,000, a growing economy, and a regional job center. Roseville appreciates the opportunity to provide input on your draft legislation and looks forward to working with the Subcommittee as the legislation is refined.

Overall, we support the draft's focus on efforts to improve ecosystems, while addressing safe and reliable water supplies. The following comments are submitted and complement those submitted by the Regional Water Authority, and are consistent with our region's priority to ensure that federal water resources are balanced with our ongoing efforts to develop sustainable and resilient water supply programs.

Section 101: Competitive Grants for Recycling Water Authorization

Roseville has been recycling California Title 22 water since 1996. We applaud the development of the FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act framework as the proposed actions align with our goal to pursue technology innovation in water reuse. We are presently working to secure funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), to fund advanced treatment research. Under the WIFIA program our project may only have a total of 80% Federal funding and are currently clarifying that WIFIA assistance is not adverse to other federal assistance including Title XVI assistance.

Section 103: Surface and Groundwater Storage Project Authorization

Coming out of the 2015 drought, the City of Roseville, as a Central Valley Project (CVP) contractor, has focused on building resiliency into our water supply through the expansion of our groundwater program from six aquifer and storage recovery (ASR) groundwater wells to twelve ASR groundwater wells. The expansion of our groundwater program is one part of a comprehensive regional plan to adapt to climate change and balance our regions co-equal goals of water supply reliability and enhanced habitat in the lower American River.

Many of the projects that can benefit from this funding will be implemented by local agencies, like Roseville. As a city that is reliant on CVP facilities for its surface water supply, the additional groundwater well infrastructure we are pursuing provides a direct benefit to federal CVP facilities by providing more operational flexibility and relief for Folsom Reservoir operations during drought times, but also provides the Bureau of Reclamation with more system flexibility to meet ecosystem and species needs in the Lower American River and the San Joaquin Bay Delta.

We believe the \$250,000,000 project threshold will present a barrier to local-federal partnership opportunities for other cities of our size and smaller. While our total regional groundwater infrastructure projects have an estimated cost of \$280 million, local agencies will be the ones constructing the necessary infrastructure and

the project costs will be far more modest. We therefore suggest a project threshold of \$30 million for projects like aquifer storage and recovery wells and other projects that facilitate groundwater banking that are more cost effective. It would allow far more participation and higher potential benefit to the Federal government.

Section 402: Water Industry Career Training

The City of Roseville is facing an aging workforce, 50 percent of our workforce will be age-eligible for retirement in next three years. The City's Environmental Utilities Career Outreach and Engagement initiative is dedicated to increasing the number of qualified candidates for positions at all levels through investing in and developing a future workforce. We support the inclusion of funding to help build the next generation of water sector professionals, particularly those in key trades like electronics technicians, system and plant operators, welders and those knowledgeable in the construction trades specific to utility infrastructure.

We believe this new funding could benefit Roseville, the Sacramento region and California as we look at ways to build and expand our apprenticeship and internship program that will help to develop the next generation of water leaders dedicated to providing a safe and reliable water supply.

The City of Roseville appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft FUTURE Drought Resilient Act. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Noelle Mattock, Utility Government Relations Administrator at (916) 774-5504 or ncmattock@roseville.ca.us on drinking water matters and Marisa Tricas, Utility Government Relations Administrator at (916) 225-1764 or mtricas@roseville.ca.us on recycled water matters.

Sincerely,



John B. Allard II,
Mayor